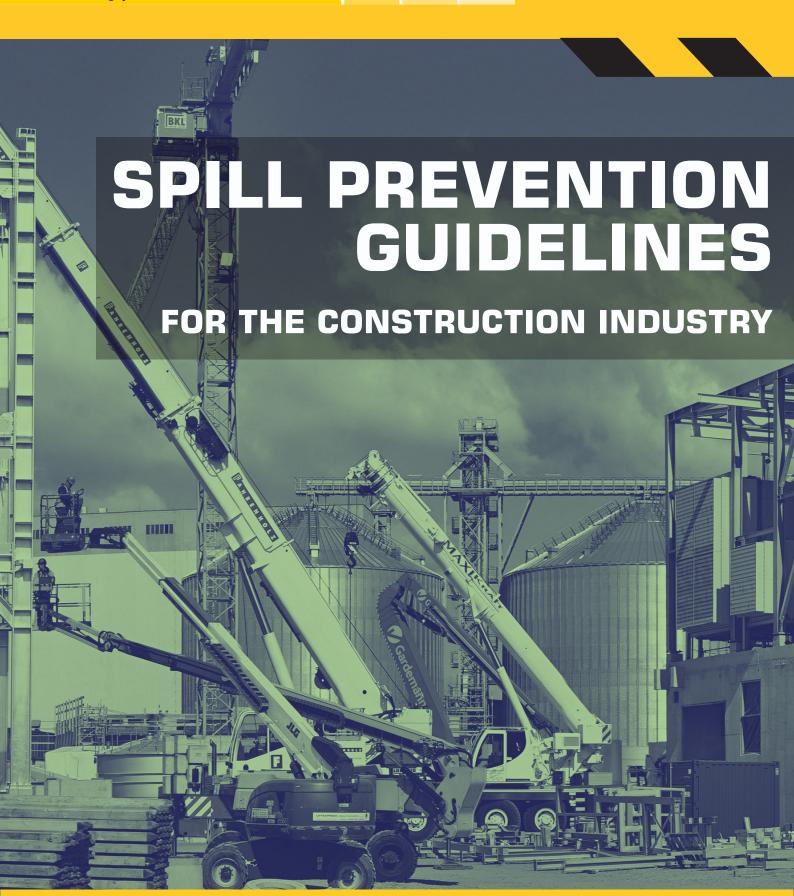
EMPTEEZY® working for the environment



EMPTEEZY LTD.

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OVERVIEW

The incorrect storage or poor management of liquids can have far reaching consequences for businesses and the environment. Although the UK oil storage regulations are amongst some of the most highly publicised regulations currently in force, it's all too easy to forget that all liquids pose a potential threat to health, safety and the environment if not properly handled and stored. Pollution incidents are still a far too regular an occurrence in the construction industry and the UK environment agencies and other government bodies are putting increasing pressure on the industry to reduce pollution and conform to environmental regulations.

REMEMBER You are responsible for all the liquids on your site and you can be prosecuted for a pollution incident that originates on your site even if it was a result of vandalism.

It's relatively straightforward to ensure that your site is compliant by using products specifically designed for the task, such as; rotationally moulded polyethylene spill pallets, storage vaults, portable bunds, spill kits, containment booms and drain covers.

The following guide provides recommendations to help ensure your site is compliant and when used in conjunction with other measures such as spill response awareness training will reduce the risk of an incident.

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WHAT IS AT RISK?



Water Environment: Pollution can kill fish, affect public drinking water and affect farmers. Surface and groundwaters have legal protection. It is an offence to pollute them!



Land and Soil: A variety of animals and plants can be harmed via chemical and oil pollution from your site, or changes to the pH balance. The effects can be felt immediately or over time dependent on quantity and pollution type.



People: The noise, light and vibration of your site activities can all have an affect on people living and working in the area. Be considerate to those nearby.



THE CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES

Sources of pollution on building sites include:

- Diesel
- Oil
- Paint
- Solvents
- Cleaning agents and other chemicals
- Construction debris and dirt

During the construction process, silt-bearing run-off and sediment pollution can be washed into rivers, streams etc. turning them turbid, which restricts sunlight filtration and destroys aquatic life. Surface water run-off will carry pollutants such as diesel, oil, chemicals and materials like cement into drains or soak into the ground where they can contaminate groundwater.

The consequences if you cause pollution include:



- The company and named responsible individuals are liable to prosecution
- Over and above any clean-up costs, there could be court costs and fines
- Enforcement notices could affect working practices and in severe cases, close the site
- Bad publicity could affect future contracts

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PLAN

Start with a plan. Ask yourself:

- Where are the spill prone areas on site? Assess where liquids (including generators and fuel bowsers) will be stored and used. Include the delivery of new supplies of liquid and the removal of any waste liquids
- Detail which liquids you will be storing and using on site. Check the SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for full details of potential hazards, correct storage and health, safety and environmental advice
- Understand what volumes of each liquid, the numbers of containers you need to have on site at any one time and what sort of containers are they stored in (25ltr, 50ltr, 205ltr drums, 1000ltr IBCs etc.)
- How will you control vehicle movement onto and off site in terms of not allowing contaminants (mud, soil etc.) to access surface water drains or cover the road surface?
- Ensure you understand where all drains located on site or in the surrounding road network are, what sort of drain they are (surface water or foul water) and where they flow to
- What bodies of water (rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, culverts, boreholes etc.) are on the site or adjacent to it
- If working adjacent to or directly "on the water", profiling a river bank or bridge work for example consider how you will contain any "pollutant" including soil/mud that accesses the water
- Identify what pollution risks are most significant in your project and address these first



YOUR LIQUIDS What type of liquids are being stored? Oils Chemicals Flammables How much of each Do the liquids Is there an associated liquid do you need need to be kept vapour risk? Your Safety to store? Data Sheets can help separately? with this. Don't forget smaller quantities of liquids held

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on site or in vehicles.



STORING YOUR LIQUIDS

Where will your liquids be stored?

Once you understand what liquids you need on site, you need to ensure that they are correctly stored in fully compliant storage products. Before you purchase anything, there are a few simple questions you should ask yourself to ensure you buy the right products for your specific set of circumstances.

INDOORS



Will any of the liquids be stored indoors?

Before purchasing, check that the item will fit through doorways and whether there will be easy access to load and unload the liquids when they are in use.

OUTDOORS



Will any of the liquids be stored outdoors?

- If using simple spill pallets how will you protect the sump from filling with rainwater?
- Are you able to site the storage container away from drains or in an area where, if there is a spill, it can't access them?
- Can you site the storage container in an area where it is away from constant vehicle movement? If not consider erecting "crash barriers" to provide protection.

LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION

Will you be storing liquids indoors or outside?

Outside Storage

Considerations

How will they be delivered to your site?

How will they be moved around your site?



It is against the law to discharge anything into the sewer that could harm or interfere with the treatment or disposal of the sewer contents



If you store potentially dangerous liquids outside, for extra security keep these in locked containers



If your bund is unprotected, any rainwater it collects will reduce it's overall capacity. Always check the contents collected in a bund before disposal to ensure you don't discharge contaminated water



If you allow rainwater from bunds to enter surface or ground waters you will need an Environmental Permit or registered exemption (England & Wales) a discharge consent or groundwater authorisation (Northern Ireland) or authorisation under the Controlled Activity Regulations (Scotland).

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

When storing hazardous substances or chemicals ensure:

- They are stored away from watercourses or drains in a contained, bunded storage solution
- They are away from areas of risk, ie site traffic routes
- They are stored securely
- · They are labelled, each with their own safety data sheet
- They are inspected and fit for purpose not damaged and not leaking

WASTE MANAGEMENT

WASTE POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES

Waste is defined as something being discarded by its holder and ineffective waste management policies are a common cause of pollution on construction sites. All site personnel have a "duty of care" and must comply with the below guidelines.

EVERYONE on site must:

- Be smart when storing and securing waste
- Stop any liquid waste spilling from bins or skips which includes dry waste with the potential to become wet
- Only pass waste to authorised personnel or companies
- Adhere to site procedures for ensuring waste is stored and removed from site safely
- Ensure hazardous and non-hazardous wastes do not mix
- · Be vigilent in ordering site materials only order what you need



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RESPONDING TO AN INCIDENT

There are 8 simple steps:



ASSESS

As soon as you encounter a spill and until it has been successfully dealt with, you must constantly assess the risk it poses to personnel, the environment and property. SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST. If safe to do so, try and determine what the liquid is, the quantity involved and if there are any casualties, NEVER try to deal with a spill on your own; inform colleagues and wait until at least one other person is in attendance before dealing with the incident.



PROTECT

Always wear the appropriate P.P.E. (Personal Protection Equipment) to allow you to safely respond to the spill. Check the S.D.S. (Safety Data Sheet) for any hazards associated with the liquid spilled and then dress accordingly. IF IN DOUBT, ASSUME THE WORST AND WEAR THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF P.P.E.



CONTAIN

By containing the spill you buy time and reduce the area of contamination, lessening the impact the spill will have. Use absorbent socks and booms or physical barriers to provide fast, effective containment.



STOP THE SPILL

Once the spill has been contained, STOP the source of the spill; roll a drum damaged side up, turn a tap off, plug the hole in a container etc. and if appropriate decant any remaining liquid into a secondary container. REMEMBER, NEVER STEP IN THE SPILL.



RE-ASSESS

After the spill has been contained and the source controlled, re-assess the entire situation before starting clean-up. Ensure that the spill is fully under control.



CLEAN UP

This can be as simple as wiping up with sorbent pads, through to using additional sorbents and or a compatible "wet vac". Remember to treat all contaminated material as the liquid spilled and dispose of accordingly.



DECONTAMINATION

Ensure all the personnel involved with the spill are fully decontaminated. The site of the spill, all P.P.E. & equipment must also be fully decontaminated and checked. If items have been damaged or cannot be fully decontaminated, dispose of accordingly and replace with new.



REPORT & REPLENISH

Ensure any spill materials are replenished where necessary. At this time, all remaining kits etc... should be checked to ensure the are fit for any future incident and replaced where appropriate.



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TYPES OF PRODUCT TO CONSIDER



Plastic Spill Pallets

Available for one, two, four or eight 205ltr drums or one or two standard 1000ltr IBCs, they come with fully compliant sump capacities. Additionally, they are rotationally moulded in polyethylene so are lightweight and easy to use with no access restrictions but the sumps are open to the elements.



Covered Spill Pallets

Available for two, four or eight 2051tr drums or one or two standard 1000ltr IBCs, these models have rotationally moulded base units (fully compliant sumps) and are fitted with steel, powder coat paint finished covers with lockable doors.



Portable Bunds

Designed specifically for use where a standard spill pallet is impractical, these "fold-up" spill pallets allow you to put containment in almost anywhere there is level ground. Don't just think drum or IBC storage - these products can be used to place a generator, fuel bowser or even a truck into. Assembly or take down only takes minutes and there are no tools required.



Drain Covers

Available in one time use or reusable formats, drain covers can be used pro-actively during fuel deliveries or deployed quickly to seal off drains in the event of a spill.



Absorbent and Containment Booms

When working near or "on the water" these products can be proactively deployed to contain and absorb any hydrocarbon spills that access the water or, in the case of our silt booms, will contain any sediment in a defined area, greatly reducing the risk of water contamination.



Spill Kits

Available in 3 formats, kits are able to absorb from 15ltr to 1000ltr.



Maintenance

Will absorb, oils, fuel oils, diesel, petrol & mild solvents in

addition to water & water based products

Oil Selective

Will absorb hydrocarbon based liquids: oils, fuel oils, diesel & petrol but repels water. Ideal for spills of hydrocarbons outdoors when it's raining or taking spilt hydrocarbons off water

Chemical



Will absorb most. liquids from water to acids and corrosives - vour solution for when vou don't know what the spilt

liquid is

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FREE SITE ASSESSMENT

Empteezy is the home of quality engineered spill containment and spill control products. Our overriding aim is to help you comply with legislation and implement best practice in connection with your site storage and response needs.

Keeping on top of updates in legislation can be time consuming, but failure to do so may result in expensive action being taken against your company and you as a named person responsible.

Empteezy provide free, confidential advice on how to ensure your site is fully compliant with regulations and standards such as ISO 14001.

We have a team of field based managers located around the UK, who between them have more than 100 years' experience in the spill control & containment industry making them well placed to offer objective and informed advice in the form of a written report including product recommendations and comes with our promise that if you don't like what you read there is no onus on you to purchase anything.

FIND OUT MORE BY CONTACTING US TODAY

Get in touch with us via one of the methods below to find out how we can help you safeguard your sites from potential pollution incidents. Our opening hours at 9am - 5pm, Mon - Thurs and 9am - 3pm, Fri.



REMEMBER: The secondary containment you deploy much be able to contain at least 110% of the volume of the largest container - or 25% of the total volume.

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